

Maternity & Child Welfare Copy

1915.

124617

21 DEC 1916

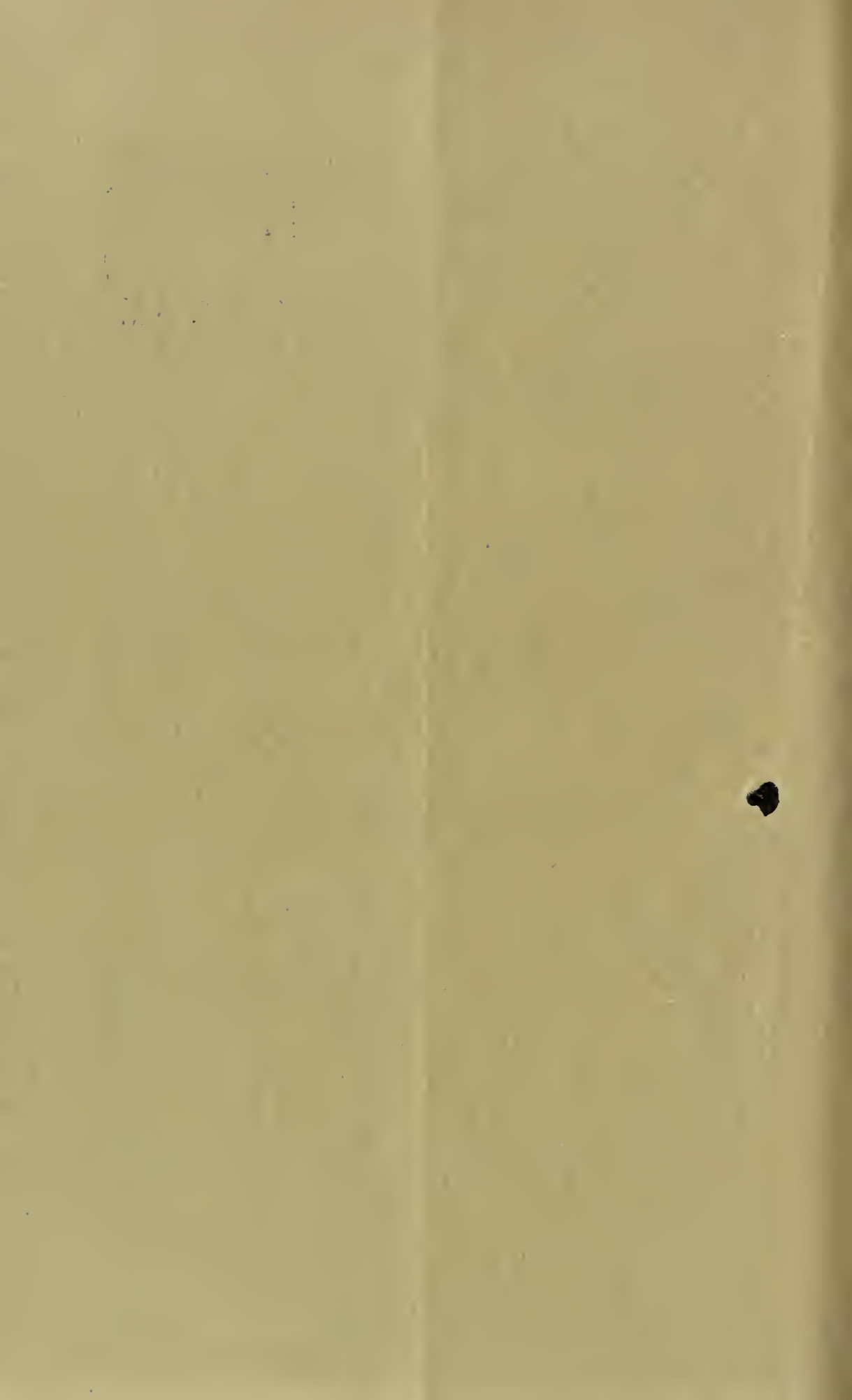
ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Fourth Annual Report
on the
PUBLIC HEALTH
of the
Isle of Ely,
For the Year 1915,

by
CECIL E. STEPHENS,
Acting County Medical Officer of Health.

*Prepared by direction of the County Council for the Administrative
County of the Isle of Ely.*

LITTLEPORT, ISLE OF ELY:
WM. C. BARBER, PRINTER, VICTORIA STREET,
1916.



1915.

LOCAL GOVT BOARD

124617

21 DEC 1916

ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Fourth Annual Report
on the
PUBLIC HEALTH

of the
Isle of Ely,
For the Year 1915,

by
CECIL E. STEPHENS,
Acting County Medical Officer of Health.

*Prepared by direction of the County Council for the Administrative
County of the Isle of Ely.*

LITTLEPORT, ISLE OF ELY:
WM. C. BARBER, PRINTER, VICTORIA STREET,
1916.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Prefatory Letter	3
Sanitary Authorities in the Isle	4
Dates of Receipts of District Annual Reports for 1915 ..	5
Certifying Surgeons in the Isle	6
Duties of County Medical Officers	7
Duties of District Medical Officers	8
THE HEALTH OF THE COUNTY, 1915.	
Statistical Summary (Table 1)	9
Estimate of Civil Population, 1915	9
Population and Acreage (Table 2)	12
County Birth-rate (Table 3)	13
County Death-rate (Table 4)	13
Infant Mortality (Table 5)	13
Causes of Death, &c. (Tables 6, 7, 8)	14-16
Cancer (Table 9)	17
Diarrhœa (Table 10)	17
Tuberculosis (Table 11)	17
Notifications in age groups and in the several districts, and Removals to Hospital (Tables 12, 12a) ..	18-19
Infectious Diseases—School Closure	20
Rainfall	20
Isolation Hospitals (Table 13)	21
Bye-laws, Regulations, and Adoptive Acts (Table 14) ..	22
Notification of Births Act (Table 15)	23
Sale of Food and Drugs Act (Table 16)	23
Workshops (Table 17)	24
Chief Statistics (Tables 18, 19, 20)	25
Reports of Medical Officers of Health—Urban	28
" " " " Rural	41
Health Visitors' Reports	51
Visits by Health Visitors	56

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Isle of Ely County Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present to you the Annual Report on Public Health of the County for 1915.

In submitting the Report I wish to point out that for this period I was not acting as County Medical Officer, and it is impossible for me to make any comment on the general condition of the Public Health of the County for this year. I have, however, introduced each District Medical Officer's Report, and also the Reports of the three Health Visitors. From these Reports much information may be gathered, not only in connection with actual Public Health matters, but also in matters relating to the welfare of infants. If the Table on Infantile Mortality is referred to, it will be observed that this is the lowest we have had for three years. This is one of the many proofs of the excellent work done by the Health Visitors. It is hoped that both doctors and the parents of babies will assist these Health Visitors in their duties. They are experienced in the rearing and feeding of babies, and their instructions, if carefully followed, are sure to produce good results.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CECIL E. STEPHENS, M.D.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY AUTHORITIES IN THE ISLE OF ELY.

THE ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL

Acting through its Executive:

The County Public Health and Housing Committee.

(Quorum: Five.)

ARCHER, H.	HILL, R. B. (The Rev.)
BIDWELL, C.	HORRELL, W.
BREWIN, G.	KEMP, J.
CLARKE, Sir W. H.	LUDDINGTON, J. L.
COLE, H.	MOLES, S.
COLLINGWOOD, H.	NEWMAN, A. E. T. (Rev.)
CUTLACK, W.	PELL, A. J. (Chairman)
DENNIS, J. H.	SAUNDERS, J. H.
EDWARDS, S. E.	SMITH, J. E. J.
GLENNY, F.	WHITTOME, H. A.
GRANGER, T. B.	WHITTOME, W.

Isle of Ely Insurance Committee.

Members appointed by the County Council.

BURMAN, A. S.	HILL, R. B. (Rev.)
CLARKE, Sir W. H. (Chairman).	NEWMAN, A. E. T. (Rev.)
COLLINGWOOD, J.	PECKOVER, Hon. Miss A.
DENNIS, J. H.	STEPHENS, C. E. (Dr.)
EMERY, Miss K. M.	

Committee under Section 8 (3) of "The Midwives' Act, 1902."

ARCHER, H.	WHITTOME, J. W.
LUDDINGTON, L. H.	YATES, J.
PEAKE, T.	

County Medical Officer of Health.

ROGERS, F. E. WOODHAM, B.A., M.B., B.C. (Cantab.), County Buildings,
Ely, Cambs.

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

STEPHENS, C. E., M.D.

Assistant County Medical Officer.

GRAHAM, M. C. R., M.B. (Edin.), D.P.H., D.T.M., Wisbech.

LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

Urban Districts and Boroughs.	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.	Sanitary Inspectors.
1. Ely ..	G. M. Hall, Esq.	.. S. C. Harris, L.F.P.S., L.S.A.	.. William McKelvie
2. Chatteris ..	A. H. Ruston, Esq.	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., B.C.	.. Solden Hipwell
3. March ..	C. Greenwood, Esq.	F. A. Evison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	
4. Whittlesey ..	B. Weldon, Esq.	.. C. H. Harding, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	
5. Wisbech ..	C.E.F. Copeman, Esq.	H. Groom, B.A., M.D.	

Rural Districts.	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.	Sanitary Inspectors
1. Ely ..	E. B. Claxton, Esq.	B. Anningson, M.A., M.D.	
2. North Witch- ford ..	G. Sharman, Esq.	C. E. Stephens, M.D.	A. W. Broker
3. Thorney ..	A. F. Whittome, Esq.	H. Clapham, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	.. E. W. Smith
4. Whittlesey ..	J. Peed, Esq.	.. J. J. Waddelow, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.S.	.. Fredk. Speechley
5. Wisbech ..	R. W. Fairecloth, Esq.	C. H. Gunson, M.B., Ch. B.	
Port of Wisbech	C.E.F. Copeman, Esq.	G. F. Collins, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	

Date of Receipt of Annual Reports.

Ely	Urban	.. ..	3rd March.
Chatteris	Urban	.. ..	25th April.
March	Urban	.. ..	30th May.
Whittlesey	Urban	.. ..	13th May.
Wisbech	Urban	.. ..	15th March.
Ely	Rural	.. ..	6th May.
North Witchford	Rural	.. ..	11th April.
Thorney	Rural	.. ..	15th May.
Whittlesey	Rural	.. ..	13th May.
Wisbech	Rural	.. ..	30th May.

CERTIFYING SURGEONS IN THE ISLE OF ELY.

The following are the names of the Certifying Factory Surgeons in the Isle of Ely:—

Chatteris Urban Districts, and part of North Witchford Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Benwick, Doddington, and Welches Dam	}	R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., Market Hill, Chatteris.
Ely Urban District, and part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Coveney, Downham, Thetford, and Witchford ..	}	F. H. Beckett, M.B., B.C., St. Audrey's, Ely.
March Urban District and part of North Witch- ford Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Manca and Wimblington	}	F. A. Evison, M.R.C.S., Broad St., March.
Whittlesey Urban District	}	J. J. Waddelow, F.R.C.S.,
Whittlesey Rural District	}	Whittlesey.
Thorney Rural District	}	
Wisbech Municipal Borough	}	W. Groom, M.D.,
Wisbech Rural District	}	32, Old Market, Wisbech, Cambs.
Part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Grunty Fen, Haddenham, Mepal and Witcham, Stretham, Sutton, Went- worth, and Wilburton	}	C. W. Howe, M.B., Haddenham, Isle of Ely.
Part of Ely Rural District, viz., the civil parishes of Littleport and Redmere ..	}	F. W. Mawby, L.S.A., Mow Fen Hall, Littleport, Ely.

DUTIES OF COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

“The duties of a Medical Officer of Health of a County shall be such as may be prescribed by General Order of the Local Government Board and such other duties as may be assigned to him by the County Council.”—Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, Part III., s. 68 (2).

The Board on July 29, 1910, issued the County Medical Officers of Health (Duties) Order, 1910, prescribing the following duties:—

- (1) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health in the County. For this purpose he shall visit the several County districts in the County as occasion may require, giving to the Medical Officer of Health of each County district prior notice of his visit, so far as this may be practicable.
- (2) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall from time to time inquire into and report upon the hospital accommodation available for the isolation of cases occurring in the County.—
 - (a) of small-pox, and
 - (b) of other infectious diseases,
 and upon any need for the provision of further hospital accommodation.
- (3) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall communicate to the Medical Officer of Health of a County district within the County any information which he may possess as to any danger to health threatening that district.
- (4) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall consult with the Medical Officers of Health of County districts within the County whenever the circumstances may render this desirable.
- (5) If the annual or special reports of the Medical Officer of Health of a County district in the County shall not contain adequate information in regard to
 - (a) the vital statistics of the district,
 - (b) the sanitary circumstances and administration of the district, and
 - (c) the action taken in the district for putting in force the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 to 1909,
 the Medical Officer of Health of the County shall obtain from the Medical Officer of Health of the County district such further information on those matters as the circumstances may demand.
- (6) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall, when directed by Us, or by the County Council, or as occasion may require, make a Special Report to the County Council on any matter appertaining to his duties under this Order.
- (7) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall as soon as practicable after the 31st day of December in each year make an Annual Report to the County Council up to the end of December on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the County.

In addition to any other matters upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report, his Annual Report shall contain the following sections :—

- (a) A digest of all annual and special reports made by the Medical Officers of Health of all County districts within the County ;
 - (b) a section as to the isolation hospital accommodation available for each County district and as to the steps which should be taken to remedy any deficiencies which may exist ;
 - (c) a section on the administration of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 to 1909, within the County ;
 - (d) a section on the water supply of the several County districts within the County ;
 - (e) a section on the pollution of streams within the County and as to the steps for the prevention of pollution taken :—
 - (i) by the local authorities, and
 - (ii) by the County Council ;
 - (f) a section on the administration within the County of the Midwives Act, 1902 ; and
 - (g) a section on the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875 to 1907, within that part of the County in which the County Council have jurisdiction for the purposes of those Acts.
- (8) The Medical Officer of Health of the County shall send to Us two copies of his Annual Report and two copies of any Special Report ; he shall also send one copy of his Annual Report to the Council of every County district in the County, and shall send three copies of any Special Report to the Council of every such County district affected by the Special Report.

The County Medical Officer is not responsible for the administration of Public Health Law.

It is his duty to collect and to report such statistics or information relating to the health of the County as may in his opinion improve the sanitary condition of the community.

DUTIES OF DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

The duties have now been increased. They have to send to the County Medical Officer every week :—

- (a) A list of all cases of infectious diseases notified ;
- (b) A copy of all notifications of tuberculosis (L.G.B. Order, Nov., 1912).

They also have to include in their annual reports a section stating the action taken under the Housing Acts.

HEALTH OF THE COUNTY.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Table 1.	County			England and Wales
	1915	1914	1913	1915
Population (estimated)	69247	71580	71011	35,359,749
Birth Rate	22·29	21·07	23·65	21·8
Death Rate	15·22	12·82	12·70	15·1
Standardized Dth. R.	00·00	10·74	10·64	—
Infant Mortality	92·22	100·80	95·24	—
Epidemic Death Rate	·98	·66	·53	—
Diarrhoea Death Rate	7·58	8·62	9·52	—
Phthisis Death Rate	·75	·61	·77	—
Cancer Death Rate	1·42	1·20	1·29	—

ESTIMATE OF CIVIL POPULATION, 1915.

The war has made it impossible to adhere to the methods of estimation of local and national population hitherto in use. Men of military age have been largely drafted to military training centres or sent abroad with the army, and the remainder of the male adult population as well as, to a lesser extent, the female population, has migrated on an unprecedented scale into areas other than those in which it was enumerated at the last census.

Under these circumstances estimates of local populations based on the census returns were clearly inadmissible, and it became necessary to search for a substitute. Fortunately this was ready to hand in the shape of the National Register, which referred to a date only six weeks removed from that for which estimates were required, viz., the middle of the year 1915. No doubt this does not

form a perfect record, as it is known that a number of persons escaped registration. From investigations, however, which have been made in another connexion, it appears that the defects in the register taken as a whole are not on such a scale as to affect seriously the estimates of population based upon it. By the method described below it was possible to derive from these returns estimates of the civil population only of each administrative area on August 15th. No attempt has been made to increase these by allowance for members of the fighting forces because, apart altogether from the difficulty of ascertaining the average military population of each district during the year, experience has shown that under present circumstances only civilian deaths can be tabulated for local areas. If military deaths were to be included they would either have to be debited to the area in which they occurred, a course which would render the death-rates of districts containing large military hospitals meaningless, or to the area of residence. An attempt made to pursue the latter course has had to be abandoned owing to military authorities having been unable to furnish to the registrars the necessary information. It has been found necessary, therefore, to limit the tabulation of deaths by local areas to deaths of civilians, and under these circumstances the civilian population is obviously the proper one to use for the calculation of death-rates.

An additional advantage in the use of National Register populations is that these consist of habitual residents in each locality, and not merely of the persons who happened to be present therein on a certain date. The deaths tabulated from the year 1911 onwards are also those of habitual residents only, and therefore the use hitherto of populations which in certain cases included very large institutional elements, chiefly composed of non-residents, introduced in these cases serious errors into the rates calculated from them, as pointed out in the Registrar-General's Annual Reports. (See page 132, Reports for 1913). This source of error now, of course, disappears for the time being, and in such districts an unavoidable break in the continuity of the previously misleading rates will result. In any case, however, the maintenance of continuity is under present circumstances obviously impossible, and it is felt that the present estimates will furnish death-rates calculated to indicate as nearly as may be the health conditions of the civil population.

The method by which the estimates of civil population have been derived from the National Register returns may now be described.

The ratio of the total population less the males aged 15-65 years to the number of females aged 15 to 65 years at the date of the census was calculated for each administrative area, and this ratio was applied to the number of females on the National Register; the resulting product plus the number of males aged 15 to 65 years on the National Register was taken to be the number of the civil popula-

tion of the district. A small adjustment was necessary in order to make the sum of the estimates for the several districts equal to the estimate for the country as a whole made on the same basis. Further, the population in institutions was not registered, and this (taken to be the same in the aggregate for England and Wales as at census date), together with a number of persons of no fixed abode, were distributed evenly over the whole country. These two adjustments raised the original estimates by about one per cent.

The question of the population to be used for the calculation of birth rates has also required consideration. The births registered are not only those of the children of civilians, and the estimates of civil population therefore form an unsuitable basis for the calculation of birth rates.

It is impossible to frame any estimate that would give reliable birth rates, and it is suggested, therefore, that the birth rates for 1915 be based upon the existing estimates of total population for 1914. These will sometimes be seriously in error owing to extensive migration having occurred. Although in such cases the Registrar General does not possess the local information necessary for applying any correction, it is not suggested that this fact need preclude medical officers of health from making use of their opportunities in this direction.

Difficulties, which will probably prove insoluble, remain as to estimation of populations in sex and age groups and the standardizing factors dependent upon them. Moreover, the present method of estimation will obviously not apply to 1916 or subsequent years unless the National Register is effectively kept up to date or further enumeration made. Nothing can at present be decided as to these matters.

POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

Table 2.	AREA in Acres (Land and Inland Water)	POPULATION						
		Census 1901	Census 1911	Increase	Estimated Middle of 1913	Estimated Middle of 1914	Estimated Middle of 1915	Estimated Middle of 1916
ISLE OF ELY	238073	64495	69752	5257	71011	71580	72156	69247
Total Urban District ..	57077	33729	36608	2879	37297	37609	37925	35815
Total Rural District ..	180996	30766	33144	2378	33714	33971	34231	33432
Chatteris Urban ..	13719	4711	5259	548	5390	5449	5510	5103
Ely Urban ..	16742	7713	7917	204	7966	7988	8010	7468
March Urban ..	19777	7565	8403	838	8604	8694	8786	8481
Whittlesey Urban ..	362	3909	4207	298	4278	4311	4344	4084
Wisbech M.B. ..	6477	9831	10822	991	11059	11167	11275	10679
Ely Rural ..	63999	12383	12916	533	13044	13102	13160	12804
North Witchford Rural ..	26088	4718	5215	497	5334	5387	5442	4941
Thorney Rural ..	18959	1799	1902	103	1927	1938	1949	2045
Whittlesey Rural ..	25837	3194	3380	186	3424	3445	3465	3269
Wisbech Rural ..	46113	8672	9731	1059	9985	10099	10215	10373
ENGLAND & WALES	37337537	32527843	36070492	3542649	36919339	214740	37690612	35359749

BIRTH RATE.

Table 3.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1913 ..	23·65	23·9	22·3
1914 ..	21·07	23·8	22·2
1915 ..	22·29	21·8	
Number, 1915	1583		

DEATH RATE.

Table 4.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1913 ..	12·70	13·7	13·1
1914 ..	12·82	14·0	13·4
1915 ..	15·22	15·1	
Number, 1915	1054		

INFANT MORTALITY.

Table 5.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1913 ..	95·24	109·	96·
1914 ..	100·80	105·	93·
1915 ..	92·22		
Number, 1915	146		

Table 6.

CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY IN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1915.

Population. 69,247.

Deaths at all Ages, 1,065.

Births, 1,583.

Infant Mortality Rate, 92.23.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year—1915	Total Deaths under 1 year—1914
Small-pox											
Chicken-pox											
Measles											
Scarlet fever											
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	11
Diphtheria and Croup ..											2
Erysipelas											
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..									1	1	
Other Tuberculosis Diseases											
Meningitis (<i>non Tuberculous</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	1				1	
Convulsions	1			2	3	4	1	3		11	14
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis	—	1	1	1	3	4	6	7	10	30	17
Pneumonia (all forms) ..				1	1	2	7	1	3	14	8
Diarrhœa	—	1			1					1	7
Enteritis	1				1		2			3	6
Gastritis											1
Syphilis											
Rickets											
Suffocation, overlying ..	1				1					1	2
Injury at Birth	2				2					2	1
Atelectasis	3				3					3	6
Congenital Malformation ..	4				4	3		2		9	2
Premature birth	21	1	3	4	29	2	1	1	1	34	34
Atrophy, Debility and											
Marasmus	4			2	6	4				10	31
Other Causes	3	2	5	1	11	5	4	2	2	24	8
Totals	40	5	9	11	65	26	21	16	18	146	152

AGE OF INFANT DEATHS IN DISTRICTS, 1915.

Table 7.

Districts	Population	Deaths at all Ages	Births	Number of Infant Deaths in first four weeks of life				Total under 4 wks.	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 mths and under 6 mths	6 mths and under 9 mths	9 mths and under 12 mths	In first year	Ratio per 1000 Births	
				1	2	3	4								
URBAN—															
Chatteris ..	5103	70	104	5	1		1	7		2	2		11	105.70	
Ely ..	7468	139	160	7	1		2	10	8	4	1		23	143.70	
March ..	8481	118	210	2	1	1	3	7	4	3	2	2	18	116.60	
Whittlesey ..	4084	57	79		1		1	2	2	1		1	6	76.02	
Wisbech ..	10679	193	232	6		5		11	4	3	3	5	26	117.60	
Total Urban ..	35815	577	785	20	4	6	7	37	18	13	8	8	84	107.01	
RURAL—															
Ely ..	12804	190	293	5		3	2	10		3	5	1	19	61.84	
North Witchford ..	4941	73	108	1			1	2	2	2		3	9	83.30	
Thorney ..	2045	27	51	1				1	1			1	3	58.82	
Whittlesey ..	3269	30	85	4				4	2			1	7	82.35	
Wisbech ..	10373	157	261	9	1		1	11	3	3	3	4	24	91.95	
Total Rural ..	33432	477	798	20	1	3	4	28	8	8	8	10	62	77.69	
Total Urban ..	35815	577	785	20	4	6	7	37	18	13	8	8	84	107.01	
Total County ..	69247	1064	1583	40	5	9	11	65	26	21	16	18	146	92.23	

Table 8. Causes of Death in the Urban and Rural Districts, 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH		Deaths in all Districts at Subjoined Ages								Deaths in each District at all Ages										
										URBAN				RURAL						
										Chatteris	Ely	March	Whitlesey	Wisbech	Ely	North Witchford	Thorney	Whitlesey	Wisbech	
1.	Enteric Fever ..	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	2									1	2	1
2.	Small Pox ..	10	3	2					1									5	3	3
3.	Measles ..	5	3	1	1				1									5	3	4
4.	Scarlet Fever ..	5	3	1					1									1	2	5
5.	Whooping Cough ..	21	3	11	2				3									3	2	4
6.	Diphtheria ..	21	3	11	1				3									3	2	6
7.	Influenza ..	21	1	1	1				3									3	3	7
8.	Erysipelas ..	1	2	1	12	19	16		3									17	11	10
9.	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	52	1	2	2	2	3		3									1	1	9
10.	Tuberculous Meningitis ..	2		1	1	2	3		2									1	2	11
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	98	1	1	1	5	35		8									2	1	12
12.	Cancer, malignant disease ..	4		1	1	1	1		2									15	19	13
13.	Rheumatic Fever ..	7	1	1	2	1	1		2									2	2	14
14.	Menigitis ..	85	1	1	3	7	17		11									15	17	15
15.	Organic Heart Disease ..	110	29	4	4	12	51		4									16	19	16
16.	Bronchitis ..	66	15	6	8	4	22		6									7	10	14
17.	Pneumonia ..	8	3	2	1	1	5		3									6	13	9
18.	Other Diseases of respiratory organs ..	12	3	1	1	1	3		1									1	3	17
19.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	3	1	1			1		1									2	2	2
20.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ..	5					2		3									1	3	18
21.	Cirrhosis of Liver ..	1					3		1									2	2	19
21a.	Alcoholism ..	39					2		3									2	2	20
22.	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	4		2	1	2	11		2									1	8	21a
23.	Puerperal Fever ..	4	1	2	3	1	1		3									1	4	22
24.	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy ..	57	56	3	4	8	6		5									4	5	23
25.	Congenital Debility and Malformation ..	35	3	7	4	1	1		1									4	4	24
26.	Violent Deaths ..	28					26		7									7	2	15
27.	Suicide ..	334	30	4	9	32	57		1		</									

CAUSES OF GENERAL DEATH RATE. CANCER.

Deaths per thousand of population.

Table 9.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1913 ..	1·29	1·05	1·10
1914 ..	1·20		
1915 ..	1·42		
Number, 1915.	98		

DIARRHŒA.

Deaths per thousand calculated on the number of births.

Table 10.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1913 ..	9·52	23·41	14·39
1914 ..	8·62	20·41	
1915 ..	7·58		
Number, 1915	12		

TUBERCULOSIS (Pulmonary).

Table 11.	COUNTY	England and Wales	Rural England
1913 ..	·77		
1914 ..	·61		
1915 ..	·75		
Number, 1915.	52		

Table 12.

Notifications of Infectious Disease and Removals to Hospital, 1915.

[Rates calculated on estimated population for middle of 1915.]

Disease	Cases Notified in all Districts										No. of Disease	Cases Notified in the Several Districts										All Urban Districts	Rate	Removals to Hospitals				Urban Total						
	In Age Groups											Chatteris												Ely										
	At all Ages	Under 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65	1	5	15	25	45	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate			Cases	Rate	Cases	Rate							
URBAN.																																		
1. Small Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	14	3	..	..	78	39	5.22	19	2.24	..	7.35	6	57	98	274	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Scarlet Fever ..	98	1	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Diphtheria and Membranous Group ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
4. Enteric (Typhd.) Fev. ..	82	..	12	48	15	5	2	..	..	..	..	33	6.46	30	4.01	1	1.11	12	2.94	6	57	82	2.29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Puerperal Fever ..	10	..	..	1	5	1	3	..	..	..	..	3	5.59	3	4.0	..	..	..	..	4	38	10	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
7. Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
11. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
12. Erysipelas ..	29	..	2	1	1	6	10	9	..	..	..	5	98	6	8.9	5	5.9	4	98	9	87	29	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
13. Ophthalm. Neonatorum ..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	39	2	2.7	..	..	10	2.45	2	19	6	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
14. Pulmon. Tuberculosis ..	56	..	..	9	11	29	7	..	..	..	..	2	39	9	1.21	1	1.11	10	2.45	34	3.28	56	1.56	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15. Other forms " ..	16	2	3	3	5	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2.7	3	3.5	4	98	7	67	16	45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
16. Chicken Pox ..	5	..	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	98	..	..	..	..	..	254	24.49	5	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
17. Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
18. Measles ..	254	8	103	127	11	5	254	7.09
19. German Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Other disease ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals for Urban Districts ..	558	17	142	253	63	50	23	10	54	10.58	93	12.45	29	3.41	60	14.69	322	31.04	558	15.58	5	13

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following diseases caused School Closures :—

26	Schools	were	closed	for	Measles.
2	"	"	"	"	Scarlet Fever.
5	"	"	"	"	Whooping Cough.
1	"	"	"	"	Diphtheria.
11	"	"	"	"	Mumps.
1	"	"	"	"	Chicken Pox.
3	"	"	"	"	Influenza.

49

The average period of closure was 2·93 weeks.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall for the year has been recorded in Ely by Captain Mander, and in March by Mr. A. Lunn, C.E., Dartford Rd., to whom I am indebted for the following particulars :—

1915. ELY.

Month.	Total depth <i>in.</i>	Greatest fall in 24 hours. <i>in.</i>	No. of days with 0·1 or more recorded.
January	2·60	·53	21
February	2·09	·32	20
March	1·32	·25	14
April	·44	·21	7
May	1·64	·99	10
June	·6	·22	7
July	4·05	·68	18
August	2·56	·73	13
September	1·23	·43	8
October	1·09	·54	10
November	2·84	1·55	13
December	3·36	·51	21
Total	23·82		162

1915. MARCH.

Month	Total depth. <i>in.</i>	Greatest fall in 24 hours. <i>in.</i>	No. of wet days
January	2·80	·61	18
February	2·47	·37	17
March	1·30	·29	14
April	·42	·19	3
May	1·83	·72	8
June	2·15	1·31	6
July	4·26	1·28	18
August	3·43	·80	14
September	·79	·26	7
October	1·21	·54	10
November	2·95	1·33	13
December	3·73	·55	13
Total	27·34		141

Table 13.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS. - Available Accommodation.

District	Pop. 1915	Small Pox Description	No. of Beds	Other Infectious Diseases Description	No. of Beds
Chatteris U. . .	5103	Isolation Hospital.	..	.. ..	..
Ely U.	7468	Under construction Isolation Hospital joint Ely U. and R. Districts.	..	None	
Mareh U. . . .	8481	Hospital in Gaul Rd. Two wards. (a) Large, 5. (b) Small, 2.	7	In the absence of Small Pox the Hospital is used for other infec- tious diseases.	
Whittlesey U. . .	4084	None	..	None	
Wisbech U. . . .	10679	Isolated small building. More beds if required.	2	Wooden building, shared by Wal- soken U. and Wisbech U. and Rural. S.F. and Diph.	14
Ely R.	12804	Building Isolation Hospital, jointly with Ely U.	..	None	
N. Witchford R.	4941	None	..	None	
Thorney R. . . .	2045	House on Peter- boro' Common in conjunction with other L.As.	4	None (confering with Crowland R.D.C. and Peterboro' R.D.C.)	
Whittlesey R. . .	3269	None	..	None	
Wisbech R. . . .	10373	None	..	Wooden building in conjunction with Walsoken and Wisbech U.	

Table 15.
NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—SUMMARY.

1915	District	Total Number of Births	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Registrars of the Districts	Unnotified Births
Peterboro'	51	50	1	0
Ely	453	306	0	147
North Witchford	422	354	70	2
Whittlesey	164	156	0	8
Wisbech	493	222	170	101
Totals	1583	1088	241	258

Table 16.
SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

*Return of Samples submitted to Public Analyst by the Police
to December, 1915.*

Division	Bread	Butter	Milk	All others	Total	Result of Analysis
Chatteris	3	2	10	30	45	One sample of gin adulterated
Ely	2	2	18	36	58	One sample of milk adulterated One " whisky "
March	5	1	20	7	33	All genuine
Whittlesey	2	3	10	24	39	One samples of gin adulterated
Wisbech	2	9	15	13	39	Two samples of milk adulterated One " " butter "
Totals	14	17	73	110	214	

Table 18.

1915.

	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Standardized Death Rate	Infant Mortality	Epidemic Death Rate	Diarrhoea Death Rate per 1000 of Births	Phthisis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Deaths over 65
Chatteris, U.	5103	104 20·30	70 13·72		11 105·70	3 ·59	1 9·61		8 1·57	31 6·07
Ely..	7468	160 21·04	139 18·62		23 143·70	15 2·01		3 ·40	13 1·74	51 6·82
March ..	8481	210 24·70	118 13·90		18 116·60	8 ·94	4 19·04	1 ·47	16 1·89	58 6·84
Whittlesey ..	4084	79 19·34	57 13·95		6 76·02	5 1·22	2 8·62	4 ·98	2 ·49	32 7·84
Wisbech ..	10679	232 21·70	193 18·00		26 117·60	9 ·84		17 1·59	15 1·40	83 7·77
Total Urban ..	35815	785 20·87	577 16·11		84 107·0	40 1·12	7 8·92	28 ·78	54 1·51	255 7·12
Ely, R. ..	12804	293 21·80	190 14·80		19 64·84	12 ·94	2 6·83	11 ·86	19 1·48	95 7·42
North Witchford..	4941	108 20·04	73 14·70		9 83·30	2 ·40		1 ·20	5 1·01	43 8·70
Thorney ..	2045	51 24·93	27 13·20		3 58·82	1 ·49		1 ·49	3 1·47	8 3·91
Whittlesey ..	3269	85 26·00	30 9·20		7 20·40	3 ·92	2 23·53	1 ·30	1 ·30	6 1·83
Wisbech ..	10373	261 28·16	157 15·70		24 91·95	10 ·96	1 3·83	10 ·96	16 5·54	73 7·04
Total Rural ..	33432	798 23·49	477 14·27		62 77·69	28 ·84	5 6·27	24 ·72	44 1·32	225 6·73
County as a whole	69247	1583 22·29	1054 15·22		146 92·22	68 ·98	12 7·58	52 ·75	98 1·42	480 6·93

Table 19.

1914.

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Stand- ard- ized Death Rate	Infant Mortality	Epidemic Death Rate	Diarrhoea Death Rate per 1000 of Births	Phthisis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Deaths over 65								
Chatteris, U.	..	131	24.04	69	12.66	10.76	15	114.50	4	.73			1	.18	7	1.28	36	6.60
Ely..	..	7988	148	18.52	96	12.02	10.09	12	81.08	2	.25		6	.75	12	1.50	44	5.51
March ..	..	8694	183	21.05	102	11.73	10.54	22	120.22	3	.35		3	.35	13	1.50	38	4.37
Whittlesey ..	..	4311	96	22.27	74	17.17	13.73	10	104.17	3	.70	2	3	.70	6	1.39	30	6.96
Wisbech ..	..	11167	212	18.98	182	16.29	13.24	27	127.36	16	1.43	1	8	.72	16	1.43	81	7.25
Total Urban ..	37609	770	20.47	523	13.90	11.68	86	111.69	28	.74	3	3.89	21	.56	54	1.43	229	6.09
Ely (Rural)	..	249	19.00	165	12.60	10.37	29	116.47	8	.61	9	36.14	7	.53	15	1.15	82	6.26
North Wichford..	5387	113	20.97	49	9.10	7.36	7	61.95	4	.74			2	.37	9	1.67	22	4.08
Thorney ..	1938	50	25.80	19	9.80	9.10	4	80.00							2	1.03	7	3.61
Whittlesey ..	3445	65	18.87	38	11.03	9.70	6	92.31					3	.87	2	.58	15	4.35
Wisbech ..	10099	261	25.84	123	12.18	10.26	20	76.63	7	.69	1	3.83	11	1.09	4	.39	51	5.05
Total Rural ..	33971	738	21.75	394	11.59	9.69	66	89.43	19	.56	10	13.55	23	.68	32	.94	177	5.21
County as a whole	71580	1508	21.07	917	12.82	10.74	152	100.80	47	.66	13	8.62	44	.61	86	1.20	406	5.67

Table 20.

1913.

	Popu- lation	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Cor- rected Death Rate	Infant Mortality	Epidemic Death Rate	Diarrhoea Death Rate per 1000 of Births	Phthisis Death Rate	Cancer Death Rate	Deaths over 65
Chatteris, U.	5390	127 23.56	76 14.10	11.98	18 141.73	6 1.11	5 39.37	4 .74	10 1.85	25 32.89
Ely ..	7966	186 23.34	94 11.80	9.90	17 91.39	11 1.38	4 20.10	9 1.12	8 1.00	39 41.48
March ..	8604	199 23.12	97 11.96	10.75	16 80.40	1 .11	1 9.00	7 .81	7 .81	42 43.29
Whittlesey ..	4278	111 25.95	71 16.59	13.08	12 108.10	10 2.33	2 7.46	2 .46	9 2.10	32 48.57
Wisbech ..	11059	210 18.98	147 13.29	10.80	19 90.47	2 .18		10 .90	13 1.17	67 45.57
Total Urban ..	37297	833 22.23	485 13.00	10.84	82 98.43	30 .80	10 12.00	32 .85	47 1.25	265 42.35
Ely (Rural) ..	13044	302 23.15	166 12.72	10.47	24 79.47	4 .03	4 13.21	9 .69	12 .91	83 50.00
North Witchford ..	5334	139 26.04	76 14.24	11.51	17 122.30	1 .18		4 .75	10 1.87	36 47.36
Thorney ..	1927	65 33.73	15 7.78	7.22	4 61.53			1 .51	1 .51	7 46.66
Whittlesey ..	3424	73 21.32	39 11.39	10.01	6 82.02	3 .87	2 7.46	3 .87	4 1.16	17 42.50
Wisbech ..	9985	268 26.84	121 12.11	10.20	27 100.74			6 .60	18 1.80	45 37.19
Total Rural ..	33714	847 25.12	417 12.39	10.36	78 89.65	8 .23	6 7.08	23 .63	45 1.33	188 44.97
County as a whole	71011	1680 23.65	902 12.70	10.64	160 95.24	38 .53	16 9.52	55 .77	92 1.29	393 43.52

REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

CHATTERIS URBAN.

The Annual Statistical Tables relating to the health of the District:—

The calculations in them for this year are, owing to the war, based on an estimated population of 5,103, which is some 400 less than otherwise would have been the case.

The chief occurrence, from a sanitary standpoint, was an epidemic of Diphtheria which lasted the greater part of the year, involving 33 cases and causing three deaths.

Beyond this the town was singularly free from epidemics of other diseases.

In connection with this, although it was not used, the completion of an Isolation Hospital in New Road must be recorded.

This Institution is capable of expansion, and provides a most valuable and adequate means of dealing with an outbreak of infectious disease, in case of need.

Another important sanitary improvement carried out during the year is the extension of the water mains beyond the limits of the town along the London, Wenny and New Roads, materially improving the sanitary conditions of the houses situated along those roads.

In the town itself, whenever occasion arose, the policy has been steadily carried out of connecting houses with the Marham Water Supply, and replacing privies, &c., by water-closets; 75 houses have been connected with the water main and 10 privies replaced by water-closets.

Samples of water have been taken from wells used as sources of drinking water in various parts of the town. All have been found to be highly polluted with sewage and totally unfit for drinking purposes.

The usual inspections of Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses, Cowsheds and Slaughter-houses have been carried out, and the few and minor shortcomings remedied.

The inspection of the surroundings of cases of Tuberculosis have been carried out and arrangements made for disinfection and provision of sputum flasks.

Two cases only of this disease were notified during the year.

R. E. NIX, *Medical Officer of Health.*

ELY URBAN.

During the past year 142 deaths have been registered—76 male, 66 female—giving a nett death rate (after allowing for transferable deaths) of 17·3 per 1,000, as compared with 12·02 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The births number 160, corrected number 160, shewing an increased birth rate of 19·9, as compared with 18·5 in 1914.

Infant mortality up to 12 months accounts for 23 deaths. Ten occurred under one month, and 13 from one month to under one year. Four were illegitimate children.

This is an increase on previous years, as shewn by the Table below. These were all certified.

				Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.
1911	...	...	17	96·5
1912	...	...	15	102·1
1913	...	...	17	91·3
1914	...	...	12	81·08
1915	...	...	23	143·7

With the Notification of Births Act in force in our Urban District, and a Health Visitor at work, one hopes to see an improvement this year.

Sickness.

The following diseases have been notified during the year:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	39
Diphtheria	...	...	...	30
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6
Phthisis and Tubercular Disease	...	...	...	9
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	2

The list is unusually heavy, more especially so far as Diphtheria is concerned. This disease made its appearance in Stuntney early in April.

Two cases were reported, and both died. There was no further outbreak until September, and since then, until nearing the end of the year, 28 cases have been added to the list.

On September 30th the disease was contracted outside, and brought to a family residing in Ely, consisting of several small children. The disease was not recognized, and consequently no doctor was in attendance until a few hours before the death of the person importing the disease. In the meantime the children were attending school with their noses affected and transmitting the disease to those around them.

As in previous years, so now, sufficient attention is not paid to children suffering from sore throats. It ought to be a practice, especially where there are one or more cases of Tonsillitis in one family, to make sure, by calling in a medical man, that the disease is not Diphtheria.

The last notification of this disease was on December 20th. The Christmas holidays came in due course a few days after, and I am pleased to report no further outbreak during the holidays.

Scarlet Fever heads the notification list with 39 cases. The first was reported in February, and at intervals the disease has been going on throughout the year.

The deaths from Phthisis and Tubercular Disease are in excess of 1914 to the extent of three cases.

Enteric added three to the list of notifiable diseases. One contracted the disease outside Ely, the second occurred at Babylon, and the third at Stuntney.

The two cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, confirmed by lumbar puncture, were rapidly fatal, both dying in a few hours.

It is very gratifying to feel that one may reasonably expect, before the year is out, an Isolation Hospital for the joint Urban and Rural District, thoroughly up-to-date and well equipped. In spite of the difficulties of labour and material, owing to the war, the buildings are well advanced, thanks to our Chairman, Mr. Cutlack, who has very generously presented the building as a gift to Ely and the neighbourhood.

The attendance at the City Schools, as well as those of the villages, was not quite up to the average.

The School Closures for 1915 in Ely Urban :—

Market Street (April 19th), 3 weeks for Mumps.

Broad Street (May 17th), 2 weeks for Measles.

A considerable outbreak of Measles gave trouble early in the year, more especially in the first quarter. Made more difficult by the presence of Military, notwithstanding, the disease was always kept well in hand. Since the beginning of the year 1916 Measles is a notifiable disease.

Tuberculosis and Sanatorium Treatment.

My remarks of last year with reference to the absence of a Sanatorium and Tuberculosis Dispensary for Ely and Isle of Ely holds good.

The Tuberculosis Medical Officer is still absent, owing to his services being required at the war.

Sanatorium Benefit.

A	Domiciliary	...	...	...	5
B	Shelters	...	...	...	2
C	Extra Nourishment	...	...	...	1
D	Sanatorium	...	...	...	5

Inspection.

The marked improvement in the Dairies and Cowsheds of last year is maintained.

The usual visits were carried out in the Spring and Autumn.

The principal complaint is the want of sufficient lime-washing, and occasionally the accumulation of manure in proximity to the Cowsheds. Where the defects are found, notices are sent in and the matter attended to.

The Slaughter-houses, taken as a whole, were found in a rather better state than usual. It is still necessary to send in notices to remedy small matters.

The Schools in the City, Stuntney, Chettisham, and Adelaide are satisfactory.

The Closets at Prickwillow were ordered to be re-built. Exemption was taken to this order, and after a further inspection the following order was made and completed.

Louvre ventilators to be fixed on roof on boys' side, the partitions between the closets and at both ends of the buildings to be reduced in height to the level of the top of the door frames, and the back partitions under apex of roof to be also reduced to the same level. The pans to be raised to the under part of the seat, the floors to be cemented and to be laid to a sufficient cross fall, and the whole of the front of each seat to be completely removable. The tree overhanging the ventilator at the girls' offices to be removed.

The number of visits made relating to Overcrowding, Insanitary Premises, Defective Drainage, Slaughter-houses, Dairies and Cowsheds, Bakehouses, and Schools, is 129.

The Bakehouses, 15 in number, were, generally speaking, satisfactory: a few houses required lime-washing, but no structural alteration.

Factory and Workshop Act.

110 visits have been made during the year. No defects of a serious nature were discovered: mainly cleaning down and lime-washing.

The following are registered:—

Factories	...	...	...	...	12
Workshops	...	...	...	...	82
Workplaces and Home Workers	...	...	...	...	18

New Buildings.

During the year 11 plans have been submitted for the Council's approval :—

New Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	3
New Cottages	...	...	...	1
Additions and Alterations to Dwelling-houses				4
Sheds	...	...	...	1
Drainage Work	...	...	...	2

Town Planning Act.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	1
Number of Dwelling-houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	27
Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders	...	...	...	2
Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made by the Local Authority	...	...	...	2
Number of Dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	...	...	not known	
Number of Dwelling-houses which, after the making of closing orders, were made fit for human habitation	...	...	nil	
Number of demolition orders	...	...	...	7
Number of Houses demolished	...	...	...	27
Houses demolished or in the act of demolition :—				

Lynn Road	...	...	4	Back Lane	...	1
Broad Street	...	...	14	Winfarthing Lane		1
Prickwillow Road	...	...	1	Muriels Court	...	1
Willow Walk	...	...	1	St. John's Road	...	1
Waterside	...	...	3			

This work was completed in 1914. Owing to the War, the scarcity of labour, and expense of building material, many of the suggested improvements have been put aside for a time.

In a few instances external repairs have been executed.

The Workman's Dwellings in New Barnes Road, 16 in number, are completed and inhabited.

The road in front of the buildings has been lowered and a new road made. I can only suggest the yard at the back should be paved with asphalt or concrete cement, to make them quite satisfactory. At present it is quite impossible to keep the lower rooms clean owing, in the wet weather, to mud which is necessarily taken into the buildings by the inmates.

The 12 Cottages recommended by the Sanitary Committee for Prickwillow have been held in abeyance.

Sewerage.

As in former years, the sewer and drain stoppages have been numerous—227 in number. The principal cause is silting up, duo to defective joints.

The New Sewerage Scheme, prepared by Messrs. Elliott and Brown, of Nottingham, and, I believe, accepted by the Council, is in abeyance.

There have been no sanitary improvements during 1915.

The arrangements for emptying the sewage tank and the disposal of sewage, and daily removal of house refuse, goes on as in former years.

The only work going on during 1916 is the building of the new Infectious Hospital, which is situated in a field between Witchford Road and St. John's Road, Ely.

Buildings consist of four blocks, viz. :—

1. *Ward Block*, containing six wards.

Duty room. Glass partitions.

Each ward contains two beds.

Space in verandah for 10 open-air beds.

There is also a clothes store, w.c., and soiled linen store entering from a ventilation lobby, at both ends of ward block.

2. *Receiving Block*, 16 ft. by 14 ft. 6 in., containing changing room, bath room, lobby, and slop sink.
3. *Laundry Block*, containing laundry, drying room, steam disinfecter (two rooms), coals, mortuary, w.c., and stores.
4. *Administration Block*, containing Matron's and Medical Officer's Room, Nurse's sitting room, dispensary, w.c. and lavatory, store, bedroom. Also at back—kitchen, scullery, larder, coals, w.c., and store. Upstairs—three bedrooms, w.c., bath and lavatory, and two store rooms.

Water supply and gas to be laid on.

Two rain-water tanks are provided.

Drainage. 6 in. and 4 in. pipes, and inspection chambers are provided. The outfall is to be in St. John's Road, where a new sewer is intended to be laid.

The buildings are built facing S.W.

The Surveyor's Office has been removed to Fore Hill.

The Urban Council staff has been reduced since the War began to the extent of five men. Two have passed into the Army, and three of military age have been dismissed.

Water.

Water taken from the chalk at Isleham still remains plentiful, and the quality good.

Water supply defects, 301.

Reports of Boiler Inspection satisfactory.

Total quantity of water pumped for 1915, 68,578,200 gallons.

Average consumption per day, 187,886 gallons.

Average consumption per head per day for all purposes, 26·84 gallons.

Total quantity supplied by meter, 12,491,600 gallons.

Average consumption per day, 34,223 gallons.

Average per head per day, 4·889 gallons.

Deducting the quantity supplied by meter for trade purposes from the total quantity pumped, the result is 21·9 gallons per head per day for domestic purposes, street watering, sewer flushing, and fire protection.

The total rainfall at Isleham is 22·25 inches.

The readings for 5 years :—

1911	...	...	...	...	19·54 inches.
1912	...	...	...	...	27·76 "
1913	...	...	...	...	16·89 "
1914	...	...	...	...	22·28 "
1915	...	...	...	...	22·25 "

SPENCER C. HARRIS, *Medical Officer of Health.*

MARCH URBAN.

With a view to rigid economy in money and material, the Local Government Board have requested annual reports to be as condensed as possible and the avoidance of all unimportant matter. I have, therefore, the honour to submit to you a very brief outline of a few events of the past year.

While every trade and occupation has felt the restrictions imposed on labour from absentees serving with the armed forces of the Crown, it has yet been possible to carry out some necessary sanitary improvements, a few of which may be shortly stated.

In the neighbourhood of St. John's and Elwyn Roads open ditches have been filled and surface water drains laid. Inspection chambers have also been introduced into the channel of other sewers.

Having given every satisfaction for eight years, it was found necessary to renew the distributing arrangements of the bacteria beds in Wigstone's Road, glazed tiles being substituted for perforated iron sheets.

A surface area of tar-spraying equivalent to nearly 20 acres was applied to the roads and footpaths of the town.

Weekly collections of house refuse and the removal of the contents of earth closets have been as efficiently performed as in former years.

Notices for the abatement of a nuisance from privy vaults were issued to five persons in Mill View, and promptly rectified. Notice was also given to the owner of a dwelling-house in Station Road, for the necessity of immediate repair.

The water supply of nine cottages in Norwood Road still gives reason for complaint from the inhabitants.

With the completion of the 16 houses owned by your Council in Gaul Road, the tenants of two condemned cottages in Silver Street have been able to move into the newer ones. The older cottages are now empty, and will remain so until put into a proper state for human habitation. Of the 91 houses needing attention in the town, repairs are being gradually executed.

Infectious diseases reported in the year numbered 29, and of these 19 were cases of Searlatina involving 12 homes.

One ease only of Pulmonary Consumption was notified in the year. Though the result of microscopical examination of the sputum is sometimes stated on the notification forms, it is not always so.

Of the life and death tables an extraordinary feature is the large number of deaths from Malignant Disease (Cancer). Though the nett death rate is somewhat higher it is a satisfactory feature to notice that practically half the total number of deaths occurred to persons of 65 years and over.

F. A. EVISON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

WHITTLESEY URBAN.

Report for the year ending December 31st, 1916.

Population.

The population at the last census was 4,207. The estimated number to the middle of 1915 was 4,084. On this estimate the birth and death rates are taken.

Mortality.

The number of persons who died during the year was 51. This is 13 less than the previous year, and gives a rate of 12·48 per 1,000. To this number must be added six transferable deaths which occurred outside the district, in places such as the Workhouse, Peterborough Infirmary, &c. This brings the total up to 57, and the rate up to 13·95 per 1,000. This rate compares most favourably with those of other years.

Causes of Death.

Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 2; Influenza, 2; Phthisis, 4; other Tubercular Disease, 1; Cancer, 2; Heart Disease, 1; Bronchitis, 7; Pneumonia, 3; other diseases of Respiratory Organs, 2; Cirrhosis of Liver, 2; Bright's Disease, 1; Congenital Debility, including Premature Births, 3; violent deaths, 3; other defined diseases, 23.

Ages at Death.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	6
1 year and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	1
2 years	„	5	„	...	3
5	„	15	„	...	2
15	„	25	„	...	3
25	„	45	„	...	4
45	„	65	„	...	6
65	„	and upwards	...	...	32

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths under the age of one year was 6. This is the lowest for some years. The rate is 76.02 per 1,000 net births.

Causes of Death.

Bronchitis, 2; Pneumonia, 1; Premature Birth, 1; Marasmus, 1; other causes, 1.

Ages at Death.

1 week and under	2 weeks	...	...	1
3 weeks	4 "	...	...	1
4 "	3 months	...	...	2
3 months	6 "	...	...	1
9 "	12 "	...	...	1

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 78. This is 18 less than in 1914. 34 were males and 44 females. There was 1 birth transferred into the district. This brings the total up to 79, with a rate of 19.34 per 1,000. There were 3 illegitimate children, 1 male and 2 females.

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of infectious diseases notified to me was 60. Diphtheria, 12; Erysipelas, 4; Scarlet fever, 30; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 10; other forms of Tuberculosis, 4.

The increase in the number of cases is, in my opinion, due to the fact that children are allowed to mix with others whilst suffering from one or other of these diseases in such a mild form that the parents have not considered it necessary to call in their medical attendant. One of the cases of Phthisis was sent to a Sanatorium and has returned much improved.

At the close of the year the health of the District was very satisfactory.

C. H. HARDING, *Medical Officer of Health.*

WISBEECH URBAN.

The Annual Report, which I have the honour of submitting to you, for the Urban Sanitary District of Wisbech, and for the year ending December 31st, 1915, is, I regret, not of the usual satisfactory character, as many of the previous reports, which I have had the pleasure of submitting to you. During the past year we have not enjoyed the same amount of freedom from infectious illnesses as we did in the two previous years; it was very regrettable, that probably due to our inability to satisfactorily deal with a case of imported Measles, that we experienced such an extensive outbreak of this illness. During the year, a very large amount of work has again been done, in endeavouring to keep the District in a good sanitary condition, and no trouble has been spared in inspecting, cleansing, and disinfecting places which required attention.

You are aware that a number of troops were billeted in the District for a short time, and during their stay here, it is very gratifying to know that they were kept very immune from any of the Zymotic diseases. At the present time there are no soldiers resident in the District.

Reviewing the various infectious diseases, Measles was by far the sickness which was the most prevalent; it existed very fortunately, however, in only a mild type. In the month of May several cases were notified, and from this time the cases became more numerous during the next few months, until an extensive epidemic was prevalent, which lasted quite up to the end of November, when obvious signs of improvement were noticed, and in the following month there were only six cases recorded. As is unfortunately so often the case, in outbreaks of this disease, such little care is taken by parents in endeavouring to stop the spread of this malady, which naturally makes it very difficult to deal with such outbreaks, and for this reason a large number of men, now on Active Service, were prevented from coming home until Christmas. Although copious quantities of disinfectants were supplied and used in all parts of the District, it is regrettable that five deaths were directly due to this illness.

Chicken Pox, also of a mild character, was seen in 11 cases, only and chiefly in the latter part of the year.

Diphtheria, a much more serious disease, was found to exist in six cases only, a similar number of cases as in the previous year. The cases were mild in character, and caused no serious anxiety.

Typhoid Fever was again only found in four cases, again showing the enormous value of the Sewerage System. Of these, one proved fatal; in this case the illness was brought home by the sufferer.

Scarlet Fever was only seen in six cases, which were of a mild type. This is the smallest number of cases we have had to deal with for some years.

Erysipelas, sometimes a troublesome affection, was seen mainly among older inhabitants; there were nine mild cases to deal with, and each one recovered. As you are aware now, Measles and Ophthalmia Neonatorum are notifiable infectious cases throughout the country. There were two cases of this latter affection notified.

It now being imperative for me to recapitulate certain facts yearly, I would draw your attention to the following:—

A. That the general health of the District has been quite on an average, and good during the last past year, and that during this time many visits and inspections have been made, with and without the Sanitary Inspector. A very large quantity of disinfectants have been liberally supplied and used.

B. We have no deleterious influence existing which is likely to cause the spread of disease. The various Public Buildings and Schools are being kept in a well ventilated and cleanly condition. A more liberal use of the water for flushing at the Schools would be advantageous, especially in the warmer months, and disinfectants have been periodically resorted to.

C. Complaints have been but very few, of nuisances existing; these have all been dealt with and abated as soon as practicable. The Slaughter-houses have been fairly well kept, and more cleanly. I am aware, however, of the difficulty in keeping these places, when they exist in the middle of the town, in every way satisfactory, but in many cases no trouble has been spared to bring this about when attention has been called to their condition.

D. The Milk Supply continues to be through milk vendors, who bring their milk into the District from the surrounding country. The quantity has been ample and the quality much better, and has approached the requisite standard. This is especially gratifying now that so much is being done for the welfare of the younger children. There are no Milk Shops existing in the Town.

E. The supply of food stuffs has been good. No food has been condemned, and only one case reported, where there was suspicion of tainted or unwholesome food.

F. The Water Supply is, as formerly, obtained from the Marham Springs, forced under great pressure, night and day, the supply being constant, abundant and of excellent quality.

G. The System of Sewerage has continued to work well throughout the past year, little difficulties on the Lynn Road being easily overcome, and as a consequence both the larger and smaller drains have given practically no trouble. I cannot too strongly advocate a continuation of the periodical flushing, especially in the summer months.

H. The River Water is not now used for domestic purposes, and so affords no opportunity of ill effects from contamination.

I. The Seavenging continues to be carried out by means of covered carts, which collect in various parts of the Town regularly ; this has been done fairly satisfactory, and the District has been kept very cleanly. I would, however, call the attention of the Authority to great defects in one or two parts of the Town. I find that the refuse is often allowed to remain a much longer time than it should be, with the result that a good amount of refuse is scattered and blown about, especially is this the case against the two yards in West Street, where all accumulations should be removed at the latest by 9 o'clock in the morning, and once oftener each week. This is much to be regretted, as these yards are now more often cleansed, and are being kept better, than formerly. The refuse, as you are aware, is now destroyed or burnt, and only a small proportion has to be otherwise disposed of, on lands in the neighbourhood.

K. The Housing Accommodation remains practically the same. There are some few houses vacant, but only very few indeed of the smaller cottages are obtainable for the requirements of the working classes. Building during the past year has been exceedingly limited in consequence of the very high price of materials. The number of occupants per house averages, as previously, four. There have been only a few complaints of overerowing in respect of the occupants of the houses, and these have been remedied as soon as possible.

In connection with the Housing Accommodation I feel that, as I am not entirely in agreement with the County Medical Officer of Health, and especially after the serious reflections cast upon the Sanitary Authority at a recent meeting of the County Council, I ought to point out to you the enormous difficulty, and practical impossibility, of doing what he considers you should do. The two districts to which he refers are the two yards in West Street, which as you are aware adjoin, and especially Sluice Row, the Old Horse Fair and Canal Side. In the case of the two yards, conspicuous improvements have already been, and are being made ; with respect to the Old Horse Fair district, it seems to me almost ridiculous to suggest that these blocks of houses should be pulled down, after having existed, probably a century or more, without the slightest prospect of finding other housing accommodation for these inhabitants. I am aware that the houses are crowded together somewhat, but many improvements have been carried out even with these, and until the Authority is able to build a very large number of better class cottages for these people to go to, and compensate the owners, it seems to me idle to suggest such an undertaking. At any rate we are driven to await much more prosperous times than the present, when we may hope for even a partial demolition of dwellings, in these much abused quarters of the Town.

L. With this report, the Vital Statistics of the District are well shown on the various tables, with comparative records of former years,

and by a careful survey of these, you can best judge of the satisfactory Sanitary condition prevailing during the past year.

Under the Town Planning Act, again a large amount of work has been done, with the object of providing the best possible accommodation for the working classes. Those houses which were considered obstructive have been removed, with obvious improvements, and as a result more air, light and space obtained, the drainage, yards, and sanitary conveniences made better. It is very gratifying to note that the new dwellings recently erected on the Leverington Road site were speedily occupied, and that the inhabitants are gratified with their homes. I am looking forward to the time when you may again be able to continue this new addition to the District. In only one case has a closing order been made, in respect of a dilapidated house. In this case improvements have been made, but as yet not all completed.

I have systematically visited many of the dwellings in the District, and where small defects have been found, we have experienced little difficulty in getting these remedied—roofing, spouts, windows made to open and secure, and yards better drained and repaired. I regret, however, that even more flushes have not been added to the smaller dwellings, which add so much to the comforts of the inhabitants, and I am looking forward to the time when only covered middies are used for the disposal of house refuse, ashes and so forth.

One or two more sanitary conveniences have been added, and those common to the public are particularly well kept and attended to.

In the various Factories the sanitary requirements continue to receive very careful attention. In the majority of these work places no deleterious trade is carried on, and so no great anxiety arises.

During the season very important work has been carried on in the manufacture of jam, preserved fruit, &c., and large quantities have been sent to the Army. I have visited these premises frequently, and twice in company with a Local Government Board official, when we found that considerable care has been exercised in the manufacture and packing of these fruits.

Reviewing other diseases of a tuberculous nature, and which are so important to isolate as much as possible, and to supply with disinfectants, and destroy the deadly germs, I find that there were 34 cases of Pulmonary Consumption, compared with 43 cases last year, and that as well there were seven cases notified as tuberculous, affecting other parts of the body, compared with nine last year, and that much greater care continue to be exercised in these cases, and precautions are taken with a view of preventing their spread amongst other members of their families and friends. In connection with this I should be glad if the Authority could see their way to provide to the poorer classes sputum-spit bottles, which are convenient and easily disinfected.

The number of births during the year was 232, compared with 219 in the previous year. Of these 120 were males, 112 females, giving a birth rate of 21·7 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths from all causes was 221, compared with 212 last year, but it being now requisite to take into account the number of deaths which are transferable from and to other districts in arriving at the nett death rate for the Town, there were 47 deaths in the District of persons who did not belong to this area, and 17 of persons who died away, but belong to this District, which give the nett number of deaths 193, giving a death rate of 18 per 1,000 of the population.

Amongst these deaths are included the deaths of 26 infant children, giving an infantile death rate of 117·6 per 1,000 of the nett births registered during the year.

Herewith I beg to hand you the tabular statements of births, deaths and sickness for this period, together with records of previous years for comparison.

HARRY GROOM, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

ELY RURAL.

Vital Statistics.

I have received from the General Registrar Office, Somerset House, a memorandum stating that, on account of the disturbance of population due to war conditions, the estimate of the civil population cannot be calculated from the census returns on this occasion, and giving the probable population of the Ely Rural District as 12,804.

Population, Deaths and Death Rate.

The total number of deaths which have been registered in the District is 175, and by the addition of deaths of persons belonging to the District which have occurred in public institutions outside its boundary, viz.: in the Workhouse (situate within the Urban District of the City of Ely), 8; in Addenbrooke's Hospital, 5; in Fulbourn Asylum, 4; 2 in Isolation Hospital, Ely; 1 at Wandsworth, and 1 at Ely, making a total of 196, while 6 which occurred in the District and have been transferred out by the Registrar-General as not belonging to the District must be subtracted, making a corrected

total of 190, which gives an annual crude death rate of 14·8 per thousand living. This number, when corrected for age and sex distribution by application of the factor of standardisation (0·8233), becomes 12·1. The death rate in England and Wales for the year 1915 is given as 15·1 in the summary of the Registrar-General.

Epidemic Death Rate.

Eleven deaths due to Zymotic diseases have occurred : Whooping Cough, 1 ; Diphtheria, 2 ; Enteric Fever, 3 ; Measles, 3 ; Diarrhœa, 2.

Influenza.

Influenza has caused three deaths.

Births and Birth Rate.

The net number of births registered is 293, equal to a birth rate of 22·8 per thousand living per annum. The birth rate for England and Wales for the year 1915 is given as 21·8.

Infantile Mortality.

The ratio of deaths under one year of age to 1,000 registered births is 64 ; the rate for the previous year was 116.

Phthisis and Cancer.

The number of deaths from Phthisis and Cancer respectively among persons belonging to the District is 11 and 19, and the death rate, per thousand living, from these diseases is 0·8 and 1·4 respectively.

Disease Incidence.

Notifiable Diseases have been rather less prevalent during the year than during 1914. The total number of cases notified during the year is 58, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis 13, and 5 of other forms of Tuberculosis, as against 63 of the previous year.

Small-pox.

No case of Small-pox has been notified in the District during the year, and only one case has been notified in the District during the previous ten years.

Scarlet Fever.

Twelve cases (none fatal) of Scarlet Fever have been notified : Wilburton, 1 in March ; Sutton, 1 in April, 1 in November, 6 (4 in one family) in December ; Brandon Bank, 3 in one family in July.

Diphtheria.

Eleven cases of Diphtheria (2 fatal) have been notified during the year : 2 cases in two families in July at Witchford, and 9 cases at Littleport, six of which occurred in one family in May.

Typhoid Fever.

Nine cases (3 fatal) of Typhoid Fever have been notified, all at Littleport, four in one family in January; the other five were endemic in character, and occurred in five separate families in five different months.

Puerperal Fever.

No case of Puerperal Fever has been notified during the year.

Erysipelas.

Six cases of Erysipelas have been notified during the year, viz.: 5 in the Littleport sub-district, and 1 in the Sutton sub-district.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

(Omitted this year).

House Accommodation.

It has become the practice in many parts of the District to cover the thatched houses with corrugated iron, whereby are combined the advantages of the non-conductivity of heat by the thatch, cleanliness of the external surfaces of the roofs, and suitability for the collection of rain water.

The House-to-house Inspection has not been continued during the year.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	9
„ unfit	...	...	...	...	9
„ represented	...	...	...	...	9
Closing orders made	...	...	...	...	—
Remedied without closing order	...	...	...	...	9
„ after closing order	...	...	...	...	—

The general character of the defects were leaky thatched roofs, dilapidated lath and plaster walls, dampness, want of eaves gutters, floors below ground level, and unsafe structure.

In cases where only repairs are needed, and the owner is financially in a position to carry them out, reasonable requirements are generally willingly complied with; the chief difficulty is experienced in cases of very poor owners, who are often themselves the occupiers, and are without sufficient means to carry out the necessary improvements.

Houses have been built at:—Littleport, 10; Haddenham, 1; Sutton, 2; Downham, 5; Wilburton, 1; Coveney, 1; Witcham, 1.

Although there is no official supervision over the erection of new houses, in every instance a certificate as required by Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, is insisted upon before occupancy. Twenty-one water certificates have been granted during the year.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The Sewer at Haddenham has been cleaned out and repaired.

The Sewer at Ten Mile Bank, Littleport, has been cleaned out and a new inspection chamber provided, and the drain at City Road has been repaired.

At Stretham the drains have been cleared and the drain in Pump Lane re-laid with 165 yards of 6 inch glazed pipes.

At Witchford a 9 inch glazed pipe sewer has been laid to replace an old brick and tile drain in the Main Street from the Chapel to Beldam's farm.

At Wilburton the Sewer has been repaired.

At Mepal 6 chains of new 6 inch drain, two gullies and an inspection chamber has been provided.

The street gulleys in every parish have been cleaned and disinfected when necessary.

Excrement Disposal. (Omitted this year).

Water Supply. (The usual information has been omitted this year).

Public Pumps have been repaired at Littleport and Downham.

At Stretham the Supply Well has been opened and root-fibres removed.

I have submitted a report during the year on the Water Supply of Ten Mile Bank, but owing to the war the necessary work has been deferred.

Places over which the Council have Supervision.

Inspections: The 27 Slaughter-houses in the District have been regularly inspected, and many defects, mainly in respect of lime washing, which have been discovered have, on notice from the Inspector of Nuisances, been remedied.

No regulations have been adopted by the Council for the control of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, but there are only 14 milk purveyors in the whole of the District, namely:—At Haddenham, 4; at Wilburton, 1; at Sutton, 3; at Littleport, 4; at Stretham, 1; and at Downham, 1.

Factories and Workshops.

The work of Inspection of Factories and Workshops is done by the Inspector of Nuisances, who has been specially appointed for the purpose.

Factories: There is at present only one factory in the District where more than 40 persons are employed. There are two fodder factories in the District: one at Sutton and one at Littleport.

Workshops: Inspections of Workshops have been made during the year. No special notification of any defects or neglect on the part of

the occupiers in carrying out the provisions of the Act have been received from H.M. Inspector during the year.

Bakehouses: In this District there are 27 bakehouses on the register, and these have been periodically inspected during the year, and several which required lime washing have been dealt with.

Home Work: During the year lists containing the addresses of out-workers residing in the District have been received, and the premises occupied by them have been inspected, but in no instance has the dwelling been found to be so unhealthy as to necessitate the District Council prohibiting home work being done therein, and no case of infectious disease has appeared in any of them.

Register of Workshops: The number of workshops at present recorded are 128, including 27 bakers, 3 brickmakers, 25 dressmakers, 18 carpenters, 13 shoemakers, 16 smiths, 6 cheese factors, 7 tailors, 7 saddlers, 2 milliners, 1 basket maker, 5 wheelwrights, and 1 printer.

The Register of Workshops is being revised by the newly appointed Inspector.

BUSHELL ANNINGSO, M.D., M.A.,
Medical Officer of Health.

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL.

In accordance with instructions the Report is curtailed in many ways, but the Statistical Tables are made out in full, in order that records, which are both interesting and instructive, may be preserved through the years of the war.

The population at the Census of 1911 was 5,215, and estimated to the middle of the year 1914, it was 5,387, but as I pointed out in my 1914 report to you the true figures, owing to recruiting, must have been considerably less.

The figures sent, for 1915, by the Registrar-General prove this to have been the case.

The basis of the death rates is for 1915, a population of 4,941.

In a memorandum, issued by the Registrar-General, it is stated that it is impossible to frame any estimate that would give reliable birth rates, and it is suggested, therefore, that the birth rates for 1915 be based upon the existing estimates of total population for 1914. These will sometimes be seriously in error owing to extensive migration having occurred.

Although in such cases the Registrar-General does not possess the local information necessary for applying any correction, it is not suggested that this fact need preclude medical officers of health from making use of their opportunities in this direction.

I have therefore calculated the birth rate according to this suggestion.

The number of registered births, which has been corrected by the inward and outward transfers is 108, compared with 113 last year. The birth rate being 20·04, compared with 20·9 in 1914.

The correct number of deaths registered is 73, and the death rate 14·7. This is considerably higher than in the previous year, but it must be noted that the rate of 9·09 in 1914 was exceptionally low.

The Infantile Mortality, that is to say the number of deaths occurring in infants of less than a year, is 9, and the rate, calculated on 1,000 nett births, is 83·3. In 1914 this rate was 61·9.

In commenting on Table 2—attached to this report, which is concerned with infectious cases, I am pleased to say that only 10 were notified in the whole District.

Of these 5 were Erysipelas, 2 Scarlet Fever, 1 Enteric or Typhoid, 1 Puerperal Fever, and 1 Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

This low number of cases is pleasing, especially as it follows a very low figure in 1914.

The Housing Question is for the time being in abeyance; still, it is satisfactory to note that several new houses have been erected despite unfavourable building conditions.

The Housing Inspection has been continued, and the register is being gradually completed.

The Nuisances have been remedied in nearly all cases, and the District has been inspected frequently by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

We have no Military Camp or Military Hospital.

Altogether the health of the District has been good, and there has been no serious epidemic.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the spring in Doddington.

CECIL E. STEPHENS, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

THORNEY RURAL.

This year the Local Government Board have not issued the usual Memorandum giving instructions for the preparation of a Report, but suggest that much detail usually inserted may be omitted, and the Report confined to a record of what has taken place during the year.

Water Supply and Sewerage Disposal.

In September last the Thorney Drainage Board, in whom is vested the control of the Water Supply and the Sewerage Disposal, requested Mr. John T. Wood, M. Inst. C.E., to report upon "the best means of improving the Water Supply and Sewerage Disposal of the Village at the least cost." Some of the proposals suggested in Mr. Wood's Report are to be adopted, and the work undertaken as opportunity offers, but the main points will stand over until after the war is ended.

Infectious Diseases.

During 1915 there were notified :—

5 cases of Diphtheria.

5 „ Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

2 „ Erysipelas.

1 case each of Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

Vital Statistics.

Estimated population, 2,045. (The estimated population for 1914 was 1,940).

Births registered, 51—boys, 17 ; girls, 34. One illegitimate birth. Rate, 27·86.

Deaths registered, 22—males, 12 ; females, 10. Transferable deaths, 6—5 male, 1 female. Death rate 10·76, or 14·7 including transferable deaths.

HAROLD CLAPHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

WHITTLESEY RURAL.

Physical Features and general character of the District are unchanged, as also Water Supply, Rivers and Streams, and the Drainage and Sewerage.

The Closet Accommodation is the same, and where any defects have been observed they have been remedied with regard to premises and occupations ; at present no bye-laws or regulations exist.

The conditions of the Schools remain satisfactory ; and there is no alteration in the Milk Supply.

There is no Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Disease except at the Workhouse ; nor are there any local or adoptive Acts in force, and no chemical or bacteriological work was undertaken during the year.

During the year acute Infectious Diseases have been more numerous: from year to year these are bound to vary as epidemics will occur which may enormously increase the return: and again an outbreak in a house with a large young family the implantation of a microbe on a virgin soil will greatly add to the numbers for returns, as occurred many years ago in Fiji Islands, a sudden epidemic of Measles occurred, and the Island was more than decimated. Measles is a far more deadly disease than generally imagined: the catarrhal complications as Bronchitis, leading on to Capillary Bronchitis and Broncho Pneumonia, are the cause of a very large percentage of the deaths in the country, probably due to the simple notion that every child must have Measles, and so it is only Measles, and the proper preventative precautions are not taken.

German Measles, or Rubeola, is a far less fatal disease. Lately the Local Government Board have made both these notifiable; but why in war time when the Government are preaching economy the country should be put to the extra expense of special forms, when the plain forms for other infectious diseases, with a gummed flap, might very well have been used; and also, special envelopes with the address of the Local Medical Officer of Health printed on it, I am at a loss to understand.

During the year 21 cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified, as under:—

Acute Infections—Scarlet Fever	...	...	5
„ Erysipelas	...	...	4
„ Diphtheria	...	...	6
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...	...	4
„ Non-Pulmonary	...	...	2

Arrangements have been made for the disinfection of Tuberculous Houses and inspection of the same.

I recommended the purchase of six sputum bottles, but owing to the war and the difficulty of procuring glass, only three were obtainable.

The Nuisances dealt with during the year will be found in the Special Report by the Inspector of Nuisances. As I have received no new estimation of the population, I am basing my figures on that of 1915, viz.:—3,445. In all 86 births have occurred, 1 illegitimate male being transferable outwards, leaving a net number of 85; of these 51 were males and 34 females, giving a rate of 24·6 per 1,000.

The total number of deaths registered was 35, outward transfers 8 and inward 3, giving a net return of 30, and a rate of 10·1 per 1,000—15 males and 15 females. Deaths under 1 year were 7, giving a rate of 20·4, of these 4 occurred under 1 week, 3 from Premature Birth and 1 from Enteritis. Other deaths, 2 from Diphtheria, 1 under 1 year and 1 between 2 and 5 years. Two from Pneumonia,

1 under 1 year and 1 between 5 and 15 years. One from Influenza over 65 years of age. One from Phthisis between 15 and 25. Two from other Tuberculous Diseases, 1 between 11 and 25 and 1 between 25 and 45. Only 1 case of Cancer over 65 years. Three cases of Organic Heart Disease, 1 between 25 and 45; 1 between 45 and 65, and 1 over 65. One case of Bronchitis over 65. Two cases of Enteritis, 1 under 1 year and 1 between 2 and 5 years. One of Bright's Disease between 45 and 65. Three cases of Congenital Debility under 1 year. Two cases of violent death, 1 between 5 and 15, a railway accident; 1 between 45 and 65, found drowned. Of other defined diseases, 9; 1 under 1 year; 1 between 5 and 15; 1 between 15 and 25; 4 between 25 and 45; and 2 over 65; and 3 died in Public Institutions.

JOHN J. WADDELOW, F.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer of Health.

WISBECB RURAL.

As you are aware, the District consists of 8 parishes, situated in the Isle of Ely, and lying towards the north, west, and south of Wisbech. It has the characteristics of the fen country geology, viz., a deposition of peat and silt, on sand and gravel, which in turn rests on boulder clay. The configuration of the country is extremely flat, no part rising many feet above the sea level. It is essentially rural in character, the density of the population being approximately one person to five acres. Agriculture in all its branches forms the industry of the District.

The House Accommodation is satisfactory, and building by private enterprise and the District Council is constantly adding a good class of labourers' cottages to the existing house accommodation. Owing to the great fertility of the soil and the large amount of labour required for the fruit farms, a healthy demand always exists for cottages throughout the Rural District of Wisbech.

There is no system of Sewage Disposal. The houses are drained into cesspools, which are emptied once a year. There is no public scavenging, the house refuse being disposed of in the gardens of the occupiers. I again draw attention to Horse Shoe Corner. I would urge the Council to take over the road leading to this Corner as well as the road in front of Horse Shoe Terrace and River Terrace in the interests of Public Health. A visit to this part by the members of the Council would convince them of the necessity for such a course better than any arguments of mine.

A large drain pipe should be laid from behind the Post Office in Friday Bridge to Willow Row Drain, running behind the houses facing the main road. By such the foul-smelling water lying behind

these cottages would be drained away, and the expense of laying these drain pipes would be small compared to the comfort given to the residents of this part.

The greater part of the District is now in possession of an excellent supply of good and wholesome water from the springs of Marham, under the control of the Wisbech Waterworks Company. This supply is being gradually year by year extended, and by the co-operation between the owners and tenants there is no reason why it should not be carried into the most remote parts of the Wisbech Rural District. Wherever the Marham water has been laid on it has paid for the investment of the capital involved.

Fruit Pickers' Accommodation.

The fruit pickers in this area are, as a rule, well housed. The Sanitary Inspector and myself make an annual inspection of the buildings allotted to the pickers before they are occupied. Instructions are given regarding light, ventilation, water supply, and excrement disposal, and I am pleased to say such instructions are readily complied with.

The Dairies and Cowsheds, as well as the Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards, have all been inspected and found to be in a clean and satisfactory state.

Infectious Diseases.

Last year 40 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, but of this number 11 were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Chicken Pox and Measles were present in the District, but not in epidemic form.

Factory and Workshops Act (1901).

The Bakehouses, Blacksmiths' and Carpenters' Shops are the only places that come under the Act in Wisbech Rural District, and are all in a good sanitary state.

During the year the area has been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and any defects found remedied.

House Inspection.

The Sanitary Inspector is the person appointed by the Wisbech Rural District Council for the purpose of House Inspection under the Act, but in many instances during the past year I have drawn the attention of owners to defects in their property, and such houses have been put into a state of repair.

No civil actions have been necessary.

The defects found were chiefly due to the roofs being allowed to get out of repair, and the gutters broken or blocked, with a consequent injury to the walls.

Finally, I append statistics for the past year. The birth rate is 28·16 per 1,000, and the death rate is 15·7 per 1,000.

C. H. GUNSON,

District Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH VISITORS' REPORTS.

ELY DISTRICT.

Notification of Births.

The scheme of Infant Visiting which usually follows the adoption of the Notification of Births Act was undertaken by the County Council in the Southern District of the Isle of Ely in the autumn of 1915. The section comprises the Urban District and the villages and fens of Rural Ely, and it is noticeable that, despite the inconvenience experienced by the fen housewives through their isolated situation, the infants are in no one respect less carefully tended than those in Ely or the villages. On the whole the standard of infant physique is distinctly good.

Feeding.

In the important matter of infant feeding, the approximate result of the observations are very satisfactory. Seventy-five per cent. of the young infants have natural feeding, 15 % are fed on cow's milk, and 10 % on various kinds of artificial foods. A number—equivalent to about 15 %—have unfortunately in addition bread-sop or other unsuitable food.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply seems, as a whole, to be adequate for the needs of the young children, except in one or two villages where there is a shortage owing to most of the milk being despatched to the towns. As would be expected, in the fens the cross-country distances to farms make it almost impossible for milk to be regularly obtained, and probably this accounts for the small proportion of artificial feeding which obtains in the fens as compared with that of shop-provided areas. As is the case in other districts, artificial feeding is as often a question of choice as of necessity.

Vaccination.

Of the parents who have been visited, the opinions respecting Vaccination are just evenly divided. A large proportion of those who have claimed exemption, however, frankly declare themselves prepared to withdraw their objection in case of any imminent epidemic of Small-pox.

Infant Welfare.

The Southern District, especially in the rural parts, still clothes its infants as it did some generations ago—that is, with a minimum of comfort to the wearers. The two characteristic disadvantages are undue constriction of some parts of the infant body and dangerous exposure of others; faults which—incidentally—the Continental nations have recognised and discarded long before us. It is regrettable that the universal movement for the supply of more hygienic clothing for young children should apparently appeal so little to people engaged in trade. So long as the goods offered for sale are only of minimum desirability, so long will our village women accept the standard, and lose for themselves and the children their share in progressive education. While in most cases the quality is as reliable, the price of clothes of a newer type is the same or perhaps less than that of the old.

Comment of a similar nature applies to the sale of feeding-bottles. Whereas the crusade against Infant Mortality was in its first years largely concerned with the feeding of infants, and the dangers of the long-tube bottle, and while the use of this special bottle has been rendered illegal in France and in some of the American States, it still occupies a prominent position on the counters of our rural tradesmen.

It is not necessary to dilate upon some of the customs which are adverse to infant progress, as no doubt these are often as much universal as local. An instance or so will indicate the need for reform, such as the administration of gin, and drugged syrups for soothing purposes; also the belief that it is cruel to feed babies who are assumed to be unlikely to recover from illness. Another undesirable custom is the habitual use of chemical lozenges as a sweet-meat for children under school age; this would seem more peculiar to this locality. Some mothers believe that to squeeze the infant's head daily helps to mould the skull.

School Children.

In the case of school children much harm is done by the irregular manner of feeding. Many children take all their meals outside the house while running about, and in consequence even such nourishment as they might obtain from a monotonous diet is neutralized. The best hours for rest are also systematically lost, as children are playing about the streets long after they should be taking invigorating sleep.

The lists of those children who upon medical inspection at school were found physically defective have been followed up in due course. Treatment had, in a few cases, been obtained prior to the visit.

Homes of Children.

The Housing Question, even in times of peace, is a difficult problem, but until large or small families are able to obtain a sufficiency of space and ventilation in their homes and, in some districts, more possible sanitary conditions, we cannot pride ourselves upon the healthy environment of growing children.

Ample opportunity has been afforded, as far as this Report is concerned, for comparison of the three districts, as it may be remembered that prior to the appointment of two other Health Visitors, the whole Isle was for five months worked as uniformly as was feasible from the Central District at March. It was, therefore, not then possible to follow up the notification of births in the Ely section, but School and Tuberculosis work was performed throughout.

Considering the comparatively recent introduction of the Health Visiting movement here, the present position may be reported as favourable. A certain amount of opposition is always to be expected, more often among those ignorant of the true character of the work, but this has perhaps been no more than normal, and the following up of the notifications has been accomplished. One spot in the District still maintains a self-contained attitude, but this may not always be so.

Tuberculosis.

The reception accorded in particular by the friends of patients suffering from Tuberculosis has been encouraging. In connection with certain forms of Tubercular Disease it is extremely apparent how very unfit a place is the ten cottage for any helpful home-nursing treatment. With the few domestic facilities, limited space, and scant time at the disposal of the housewife, any patient confined to his bed for long cannot receive the detailed attention which is necessary for the alleviation of his own condition and to safeguard the health of the remainder of the household. Taking these facts into consideration, it may be said that, with a few flagrant exceptions, the care exercised by tuberculous patients in following the instructions of their doctors is not much less than could be expected of them, unless it be in the matter of sufficiency of ventilation.

N.B.A.

The following up of the Notification of Births has so far only reached half its complement. Possibly 200 infants have been traced for the year by notification and personal effort, but the minimum birth rate for Ely and district surely exceeds 400.

From the Health Visitors' point of view, every centre has three outstanding needs for its children: (1) Some place which would answer the purpose of a *crèche* where women compelled to go out to work may, during their daily absence from home, take their infants for proper care and suitable feeding. This venture should in time be largely self-supporting, and avoid the most injurious custom of leaving the children to be "minded" for gain by casual neighbours. (2) Some committee of persons interested in children's welfare which, in extremely urgent cases, would advise or help parents who desire to take necessary steps for their children, but have not the knowledge or the means to do so. These more urgent cases the Health Visitor has not the opportunity to follow up. (3) The recognition that the scattered officials who represent a movement which has as its object the reduction of the national infant death rate can hardly attempt such a task single-handed, but must look to the educated public for sympathetic moral support rather than for premature criticism of an immature system at so early a period.

W. PALMER.

MARCH DISTRICT.

Health visiting is yet uphill work, not always understood by the visited. That it is to their advantage and for their good is not realised, and that they are conferring a favour by being civil is the general understanding.

Some do realise that the advice is good and worth following, especially mothers with first babies, who do often recognise trained and explained advice *re* regularity of feeding, &c., which, if followed, brings its own reward.

School cases are difficult; parents seem to resent being told their child needs treatment for a minor ailment, often considering minor operations cruelty, and the value of early treatment of sight is very rarely recognised.

The average cleanliness is good, and very dirty, very troublesome cases comparatively rare.

Tuberculosis visiting is more discouraging, the overcrowded houses often making the separate bedroom impossible. So few are able to be sent to Sanatoria to be taught the value of air, and how to treat themselves afterwards, and to be of less danger to the general public.

But there is the "after the war" hope of better housing, sanatoria treatment for early stage cases (other than insured) children, and very advanced (very infectious cases).

The work is good, and a better understanding becoming more general is already to be recognised.

EDITH WHITE.

WISBECH DISTRICT.

A few facts as Health Visitor of the Wisbech and Thorney Urban and Rural District, as shewing the progress of the work of the past nine months, may be interesting. I am sorry they do not include the three months, *i.e.*, July, August, September, most favourable to visiting, but most unfavourable to the preservation of infant life; to quote one of the general practitioners in the Wisbech District: "The infants under one year drop off like flies during the fruit picking season."

I am hoping that the teaching on infant welfare and general hygiene, which I have been vigorously imparting, and which has been received with interest and open-mindedness by the mothers, may annul this statement in great measure.

It has been attributable in the past to (1) the mothers going out to work; and (2) consequently weaning their infants at early date; (3) The putting them out to nurse, one woman often having several to mind; (4) Improper feeding, mainly boiled bread; (5) The use of narcotics; and last, but not least, the absence of mothers' love and attention to details on infant needs.

To mitigate this state of affairs, the great need of the Wisbech District (as a permanent arrangement) are crèche, which in my opinion could be run on economic "Cottage" system in various parts of the town or village, and in carrying out which—with the generous offer of the Local Government Board and the many soldiers' wives or widows available—there should have been no difficulty.

Much, however, may be done by persuading mothers not to entirely wean the infant, in suggesting reliable foods, and to confide to their Health Visitor the person in whose care her baby will be placed, so that some supervision may be *expected* and given. I may say that in my District I am hoping for happier though not ideal results.

Very little pre-natal work is possible, as a County Health Visitor, but in a few instances (mainly rural) advice has been asked for, and where symptoms point to anything abnormal, I advise them to seek medical advice.

Re Notification of Births : Visits.—I find quite 90 % of our mothers able to *nurse* their infants, shewing healthy maternal conditions, but that 50 % at *three months* are giving part breast, part artificial feeding, and a very small minority carry natural feeding to proper term.

Re Tuberculosis.—Hygienic teaching on the subject has been well received both by those afflicted and in respect to contacts and suspects, these latter being mainly amongst children under school age.

Inspection of Housing.—Conditions reveals in the poorer rural dwellings, and very largely in the Wisbech Urban, a lamentable lack of proper accommodation for food storage, the stuffy cupboard in living room or shelf in back place, shared with all sorts of rubble, cannot keep the food in fit condition, and to suggest the placing it in roughly constructed safes in possibly insanitary backyards in no way meets the evil.

I must say that I have met with a most friendly spirit in all the aspects of my work as Health Visitor, the difficulty being that I do not visit them often enough to please them, nor as one would like, just when they most need sympathy and help.

NURSE EDGELLER.

Two of the three Health Visitors were appointed in October, 1915. The following list of visits are from October 1st to December 31st, 1915.

	Visits.
Schools	29
School Children	145
Tuberculous	354
Notification of Births	735
Total No. of Visits ...	1263

